Initial Discussion of Goals and Objectives

From presentation on stakeholder interviews…

- Potential benefits from ocean management plan
  - Establishment of management principles
  - Balancing protection and development
  - Coordination of environmental regulations/management
  - Integrated state-federal waters management
  - Clarification of regulatory process
  - Address climate change
  - Development of new science and incorporation into management

What are goals and objectives?

- Developing goals and objectives is a process of developing steps that describe WHAT a plan should do and HOW to do it
- Numerous approaches and names for the process, but intent of all is a logical progression/connection from big picture to operational detail

What are goals and objectives?

- G/Os 'step down' the broad directives in the Oceans Act into the specific actions by which the plan will be developed and implemented
- Process of developing G/Os is how public/SH comment, workgroup information, OAC, SAC and the Act

Our proposed approach

- Principles/goals
- Findings
- Objectives
- Management actions

  – The format/nomenclature may change in response to the plan framework. What matters is the substance we develop with the OAC.

Our proposed approach

- ## Principles/goals: Ocean Act Section 4C(a) i – xv:
    i. Set forth the Commonwealth's goals, siting priorities and standards for ensuring effective stewardship of its ocean waters held in trust for the benefit of the public
    ii. Adhere to sound management practices, taking into account the existing natural, social, cultural, historic and economic characteristics of the planning areas
    iii. Preserve and protect the public trust
    iv. Reflect the importance of the waters of the Commonwealth to its citizens who derive livelihoods and recreational benefits from fishing
    v. Value biodiversity and ecosystem health
    vi. Identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats
    vii. Address climate change and sea-level rise
    viii. Respect the interdependence of ecosystems
    ix. Coordinate uses that include international, federal, state and local jurisdictions
    x. Foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of the ocean
    xi. Preserve and enhance public access
    xii. Support the infrastructure necessary to sustain the economy and quality of life for the citizens of the commonwealth
    xiii. Encourage public participation in decision-making
    xiv. Adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the ocean environment
    xv. Identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses and facilities allowed in Ocean Sanctuaries

Our proposed approach

- Findings – context for addressing goal: key issues, information needed to address, info in hand (baseline assessment, workgroups, existing law/policy), level of public/SH interest/ concern
  - Findings are the bridge between big picture and specific issues, they talk about what we need/want to do and why

Our proposed approach

- Objectives – what we want the plan to do, to give specificity to the Act. (What does "value biodiversity" mean, in terms of desired outcome?)
  - Objectives are a product of the Findings, will describe desired outcomes, can be qualitative or quantitative, can be general, are accepted/articulated by most SHs (broadly defined) as desirable

Our proposed approach

- Management actions – description of specific actions necessary to accomplish the objectives
  - Management actions should be discrete tasks, quantifiable as much as possible (as basis for indicators/monitoring plan performance), and have clear assignments of responsibility

Example – see 1ˢᵗ page of handout

Principles/Goals – what the Act says the plan should do or what values it should incorporate (Oceans Act)	Findings - context of goals (Link between goals/objectives; incorporates wkgroups, baseline, public/SH comment)	Objectives - what we want the plan to do, more specifically (Desired outcome; product of findings; qualitative or quantitative, general, accepted/articulated by most SHs as desirable; will be refined into "management actions"; now/later stion)	Management Actions – specific actions that describe how we achieve the objective
I. Protect/enhance marine environment through [EBM] Value biodiversity and ecosystem health Identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats Respect the interdependence of ecosystems Adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the ocean environment	There are significant gaps in information and state definition and capacity to define/address 'ecosystem-based management.' We have XYZ data (baseline and workgroups). We know we want to get to XYZ (wkgroups, public/SH, OAC, SAC). To get to a first-order understanding of the issue and how to address in plan 1.0, we need XYZ. To do that we need to do XYZ. HIGH frequency from public HIGH importance to stakeholders	Preserve/protect/restore marine species, populations and processes Characterize and mitigate impacts to ecosystem health Site uses to minimize impacts to ecosystem health Identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats Improve understanding of ecosystem processes (components/values/resiliency) Develop decision-making tools that consider interdependence Improve understanding of ecosystem processes (components/values/resiliency) Ensure that plan and future revisions incorporate best available information and is adaptable to changing environmental, economic, and social conditions	Develop clear, science-based criteria for identifying species/habitats of special significance Delineate species/habitats and identify those appropriate for highest level of protection based on existing data Develop and implement spatial and/or performance-based management standards for species/habitats of special significance Prioritize areas that appear appropriate but that require additional data as basis for on-going plan development

OAC discussion, but first:

- The format/nomenclature may change in response to the plan framework. What matters is the substance we develop with the OAC
- We will develop full suite of G/Os based on OAC discussion and review of required inputs for plan framework alternatives
- G/Os and technical papers will be provided for OAC review before next meeting